



P.O. Box 1107
308 N. William St.
Goldshoro, NC
27533-1107
(919) 734-2241

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

June 20, 2011

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

If anyone at the FCC doubts the impact of broadband on a rural area, I wish they could have been here in Wayne County three years ago. They would have seen our congressmen – Representatives G.K. Butterfield (D-1NC) and Walter Jones (R-3NC) – join the Chairman of AT&T and the President of the Communications Workers of America in officially opening a new call center created to support the company's broadband customers. What had been a vacant grocery store is today a high-tech facility providing jobs for some 400 people in this region.

In Wayne County, home to Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, we fully appreciate the impact of government funding and programming. But we also understand that real, sustainable economic growth comes from investments from the private sector.

Ninety percent of our member businesses employ less than 25 people. We know first-hand the impact that state-of-the-art technology can have on a business. We also understand the commitment a business is making when it invests capital.

Our Chamber's mission is "to advance the general welfare and prosperity of Wayne County so that its citizens and all areas of its business community shall prosper." Expanded availability of wireless broadband service will help our members better connect with their customers and with suppliers, leading to economic growth.

Sincerely,

Marian Mason
President
Wayne County Chamber of Commerce